

Private Well Program

Ninth Annual Report 2007–2008

Introduction

About 660,000 South Carolina residents depend on individual residential wells for their water needs. Groundwater from individual wells is a safe, reliable source of water as long as the well is properly constructed. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to help ensure that this is the case.

Permitting

August 24, 2008, marked the ninth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the ninth year, 6,491 Notices of Intent were submitted for residential wells and 2,952 for irrigation wells, for a total of 9,443 wells. Lexington County was the busiest, with nearly 800 approvals issued. Charleston County and York County were next, with nearly 700 approvals each.

Fees

The fees collected during fiscal year 2007 totaled \$445,230 for residential wells and \$143,150 for irrigation wells. This totals \$588,380 for the year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program and support permitting and technical personnel, EQC well inspectors and operating expenses.

Inspections

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 3,098 inspections during the ninth year of the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. Enforcement action was brought against drillers whose wells were not in compliance. During the reporting period, three Consent Orders were issued that included civil penalties of \$4,900. Also two unlicensed drillers were discovered (with one being arrested) and warning letters were sent to five additional drillers.

